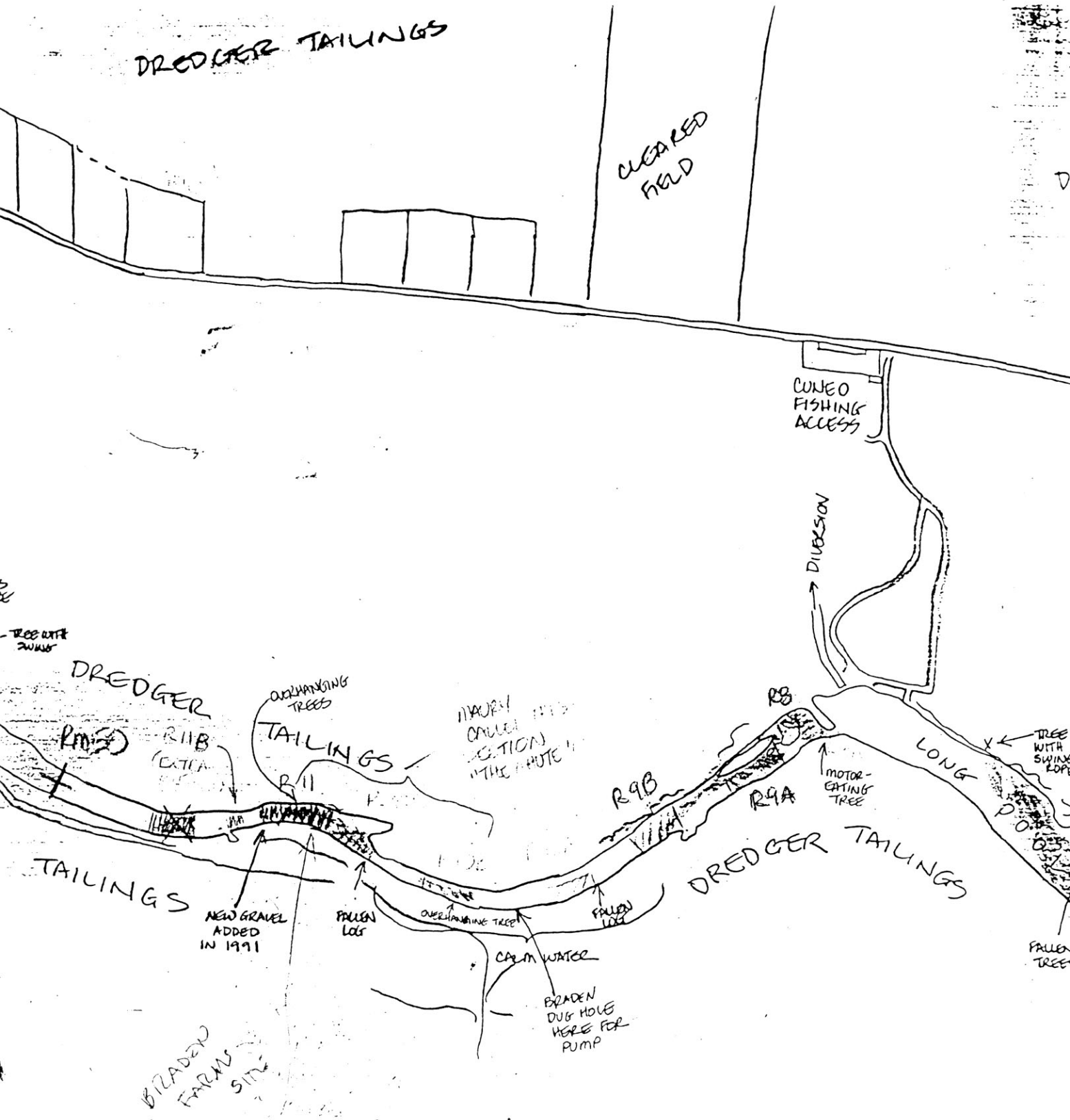
APPENDIX F

MERCED RIVER PRIORITY SITES

Merced River
Mile 50.4
Riffle 8

There is a split flow and a diversion structure at this site. The substrate is large, armored cobble. The site is approximately 300 feet long and 75 feet wide, with a drop of 1.5 to 2 feet. There is good overhanging riparian vegetation along the banks and easy access off of Merced Irrigation District road on the north.

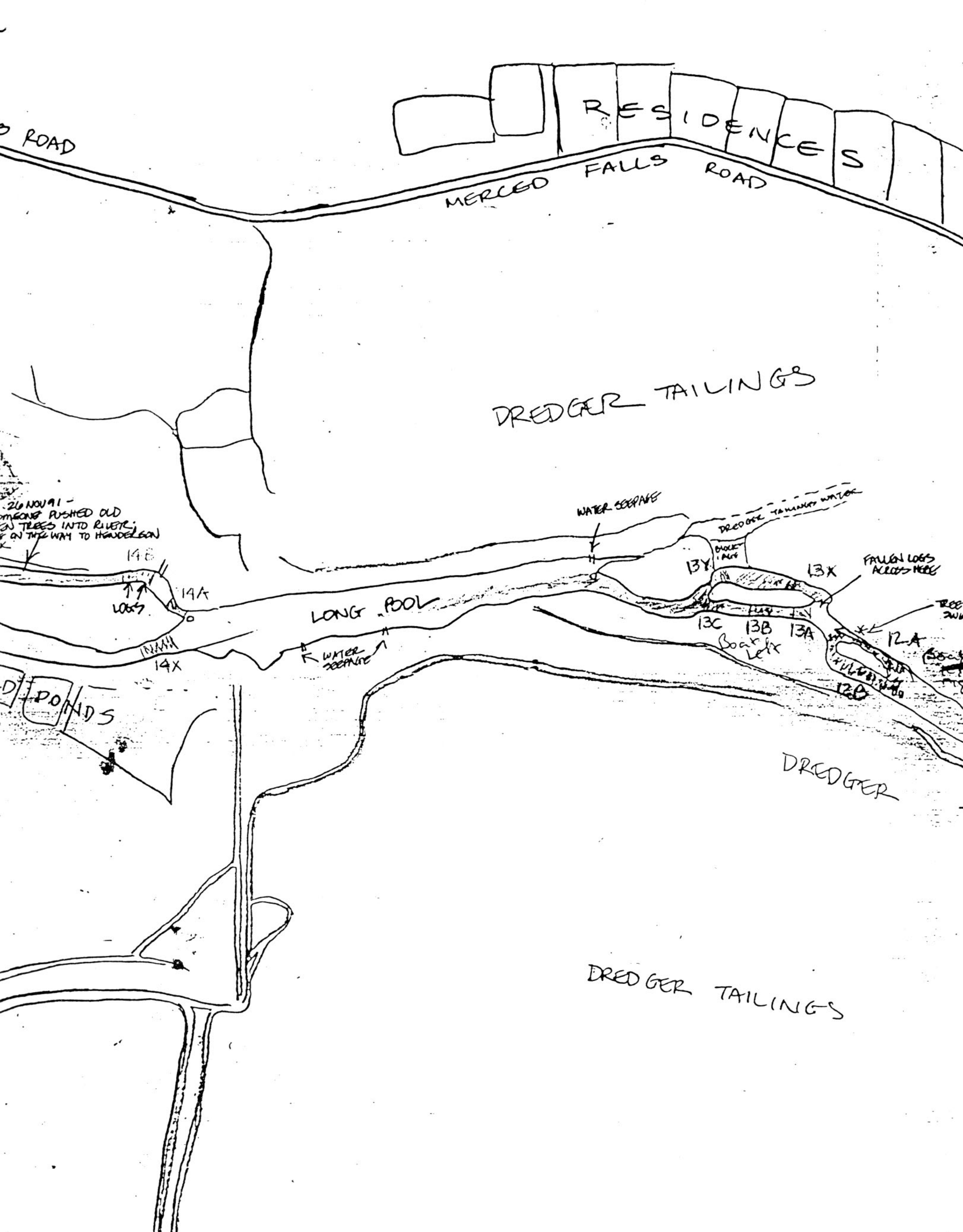
Restoration would involve excavating the substrate and replacing it with graded, washed spawning gravel.


DREDGER TAILINGS
CLEARED FIELD
CUNEO FISHING ACCESS
DIVERSION
DREDGER TAILINGS
R11B
OVERHANGING TREES
TAILINGS
R11
R9B
R9A
R8
MOTOR-EATING TREE
LONG
TREE WITH SWING ROPE
TAILINGS
NEW GRAVEL ADDED IN 1991
FALLEN LOG
OVERHANGING TREE
FALLEN LOG
CALM WATER
BRADEN DUG HOLE HERE FOR PUMP
BRADEN FARM SITE
DREDGER TAILINGS
FALLEN TREE

Merced River
Mile 49.9
Riffles 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, and 13C

There are two islands in the channel at this location. The hydrology at this site provides ample opportunities to create habitat diversity. Restoration would involve excavating the substrate and replacing it with graded, washed spawning gravel. Riffles 13X and 13Y in the north channel are used by spawning salmon. No restoration of these two riffles is proposed.

The site is approximately 800 feet long altogether. The site has good access from dredger roads on the south side.

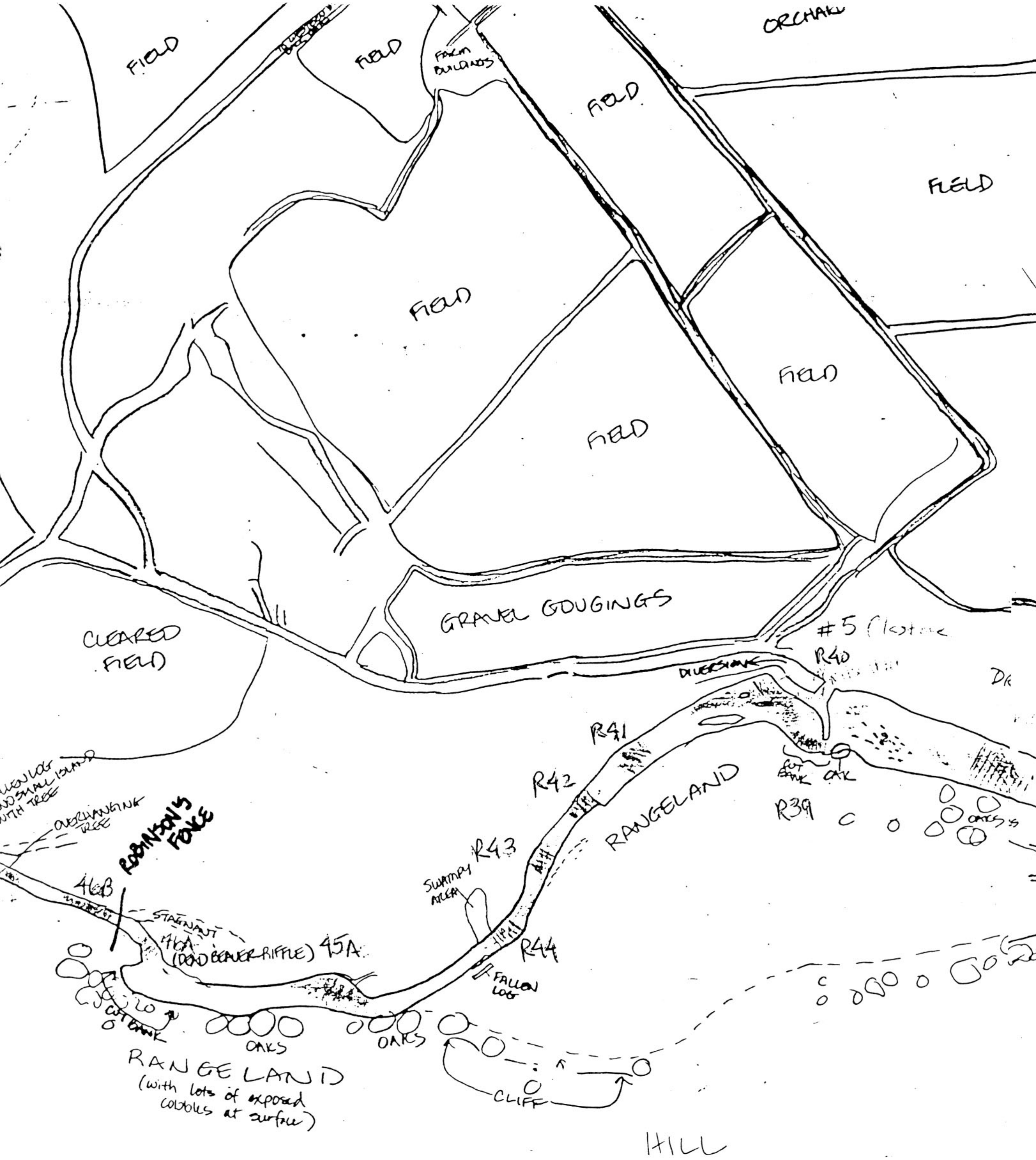

ROAD
RESIDENCES
MERCED FALLS ROAD
DREDGER TAILINGS
WATER SEEPAGE
DREDGER TAILINGS WATER
BLOCKAGE
26 NOV 91 -
PUSHED OLD
TREES INTO RIVER;
ON THE WAY TO HENDERSON
14B
14A
LOGS
14X
LONG POOL
WATER SEEPAGE
13Y
13X
FALLEN LOGS ACROSS HERE
13C
13B
13A
Boat lek
12A
12B
PONDS
DREDGER
DREDGER TAILINGS

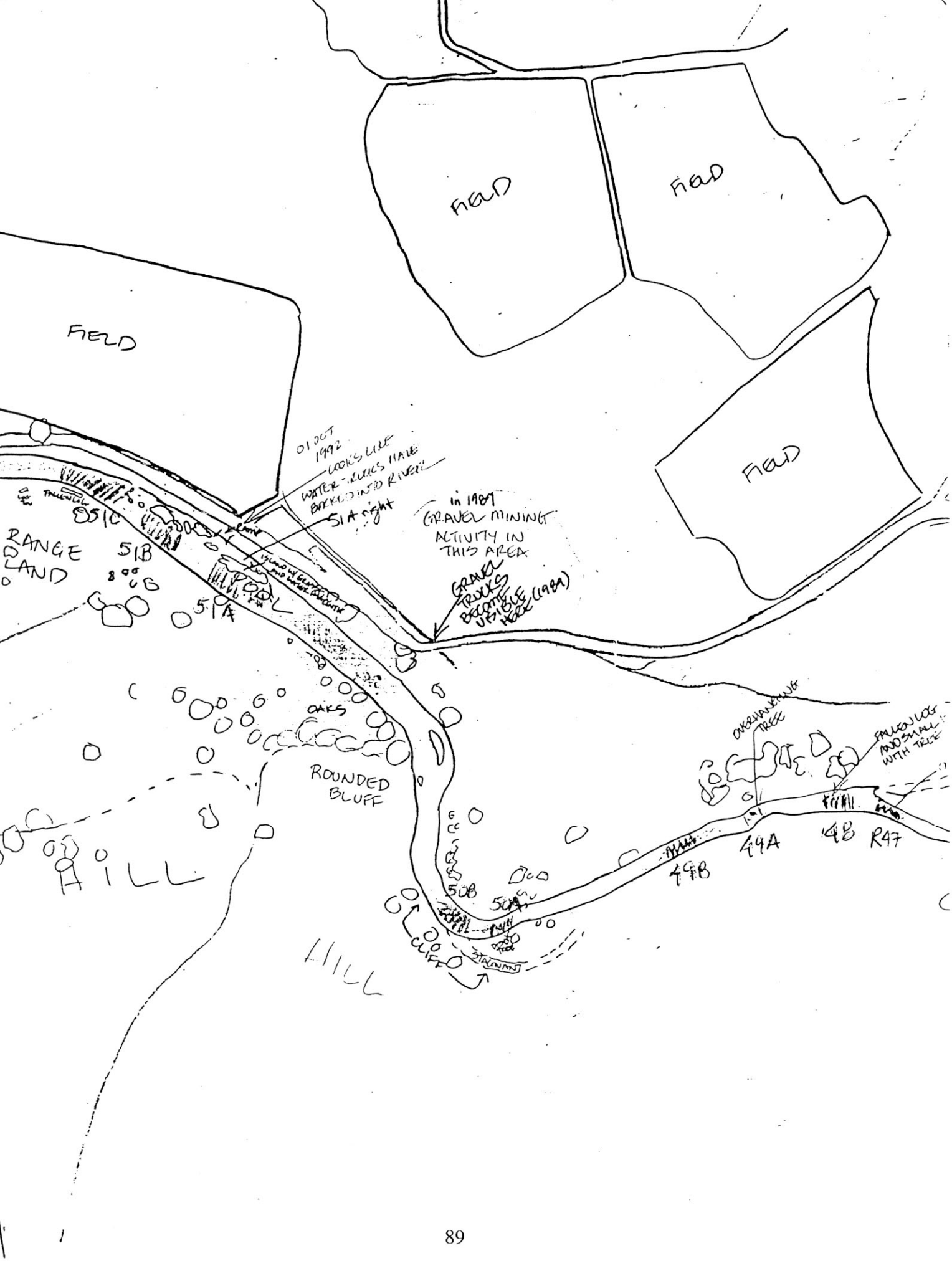
Merced River
Miles 42.7-45.5
Riffles 41-44, 47-50, 54-58, and 64-66

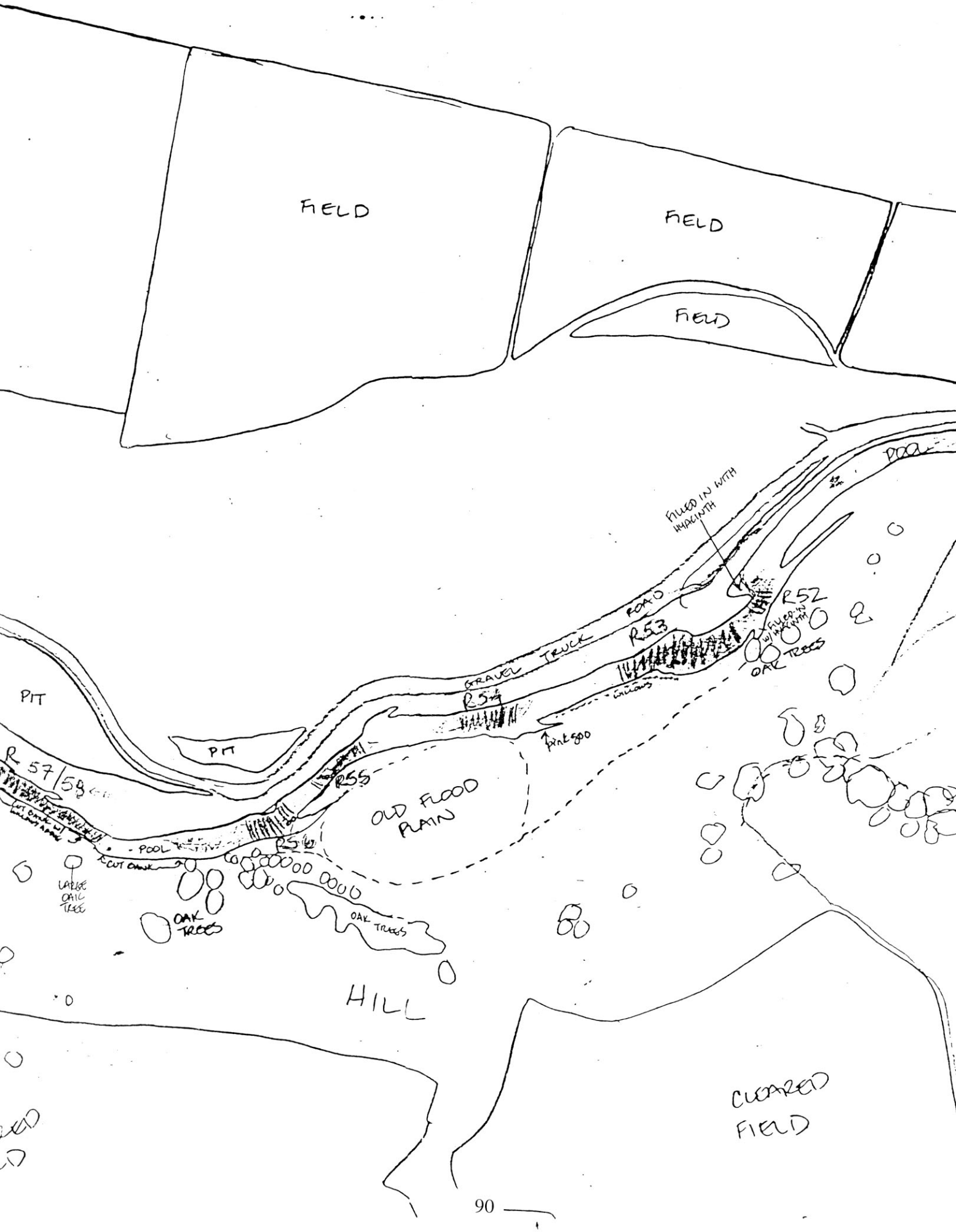
This 2.8-mile reach of the Merced River is fairly similar. There is continuous, small-size riparian vegetation along both banks. The channel is approximately 75 feet wide. The reach has good velocities, good drops, easy access, and poor substrate material. Restoration would involve excavating the large, armored cobble and replacing it with graded, washed spawning gravel.

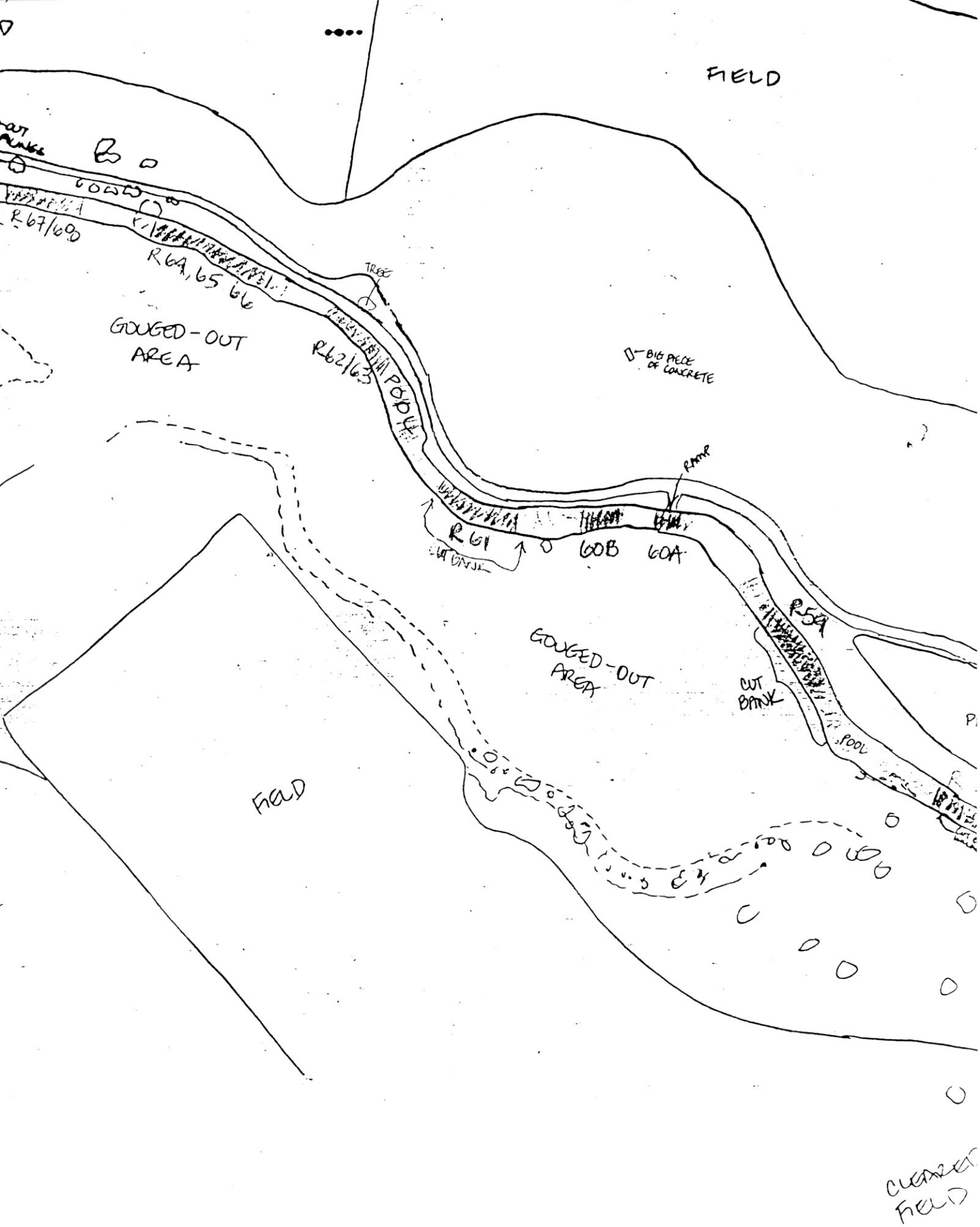
Sixteen individual riffles were identified for potential restoration within this reach. These riffles could be constructed as one large job or in smaller groups. There are four riffle groups ranging from 500 to 800 feet long.

There is cattle grazing along almost all of the south bank in this reach. Cattle grazing tends to damage and inhibit growth of riparian vegetation. In addition, cattle grazing right down to the river causes excessive erosion that can quickly silt in clean gravel. The landowner has expressed a willingness to work with us. He has proposed rotating his cattle so that they are not near the river during spawning season. This will help to some extent, but in the long run any excessive erosion will be detrimental.


FIELD
FIELD
FARM BUILDINGS
ORCHARD
FIELD
FIELD
FIELD
FIELD
FIELD
GRAVEL GOUGINGS
CLEARED FIELD
#5
R40
DIVERSION
R41
R42
RANGELAND
R39
OAKS
CUT BANK
OAK
OVERHANGING TREE
ROBINSON'S FENCE
R43
SWAMPY AREA
46B
STAGNANT
46A
(DEAD BEAVER RIFFLE) 45A
R44
FALLEN LOG
CUT BANK
OAKS
OAKS
RANGELAND
(with lots of exposed cobbles at surface)
CLIFF
HILL


FIELD
FIELD
FIELD
FIELD
01 OCT 1992
LOOKS LIKE WATER-WORKS HAVE BACKED INTO RIVER!
51A right
in 1989 GRAVEL MINING ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA
GRAVEL TRUCKS BECOME VISIBLE HERE (1989)
RANGE LAND
51B
51C
51A
POOL
OAKS
ROUNDED BLUFF
HILL
OVERHANGING TREE
FALLEN LOG AND SMALL WITH TREE
49A
48
R47
49B
50B
50A
CLIFF
HILL


FIELD
FIELD
FIELD
FILLED IN WITH HYACINTH
POOL
ROAD
GRAVEL TRUCK
R52
R53
R54
R55
R56
R57/58
OAK TREES
PIT
PIT
OLD FLOOD PLAIN
POOL
CUT BANK
LARGE OAK TREE
OAK TREES
OAK TREES
HILL
CLEARED FIELD


FIELD
R 67/69
R 64, 65 66
GOUGED-OUT AREA
TREE
R 62/63
POOL
BIG PIECE OF CONCRETE
RAMP
R 61
60B
60A
R 59
GOUGED-OUT AREA
CUT BANK
POOL
FIELD
CLEARED FIELD

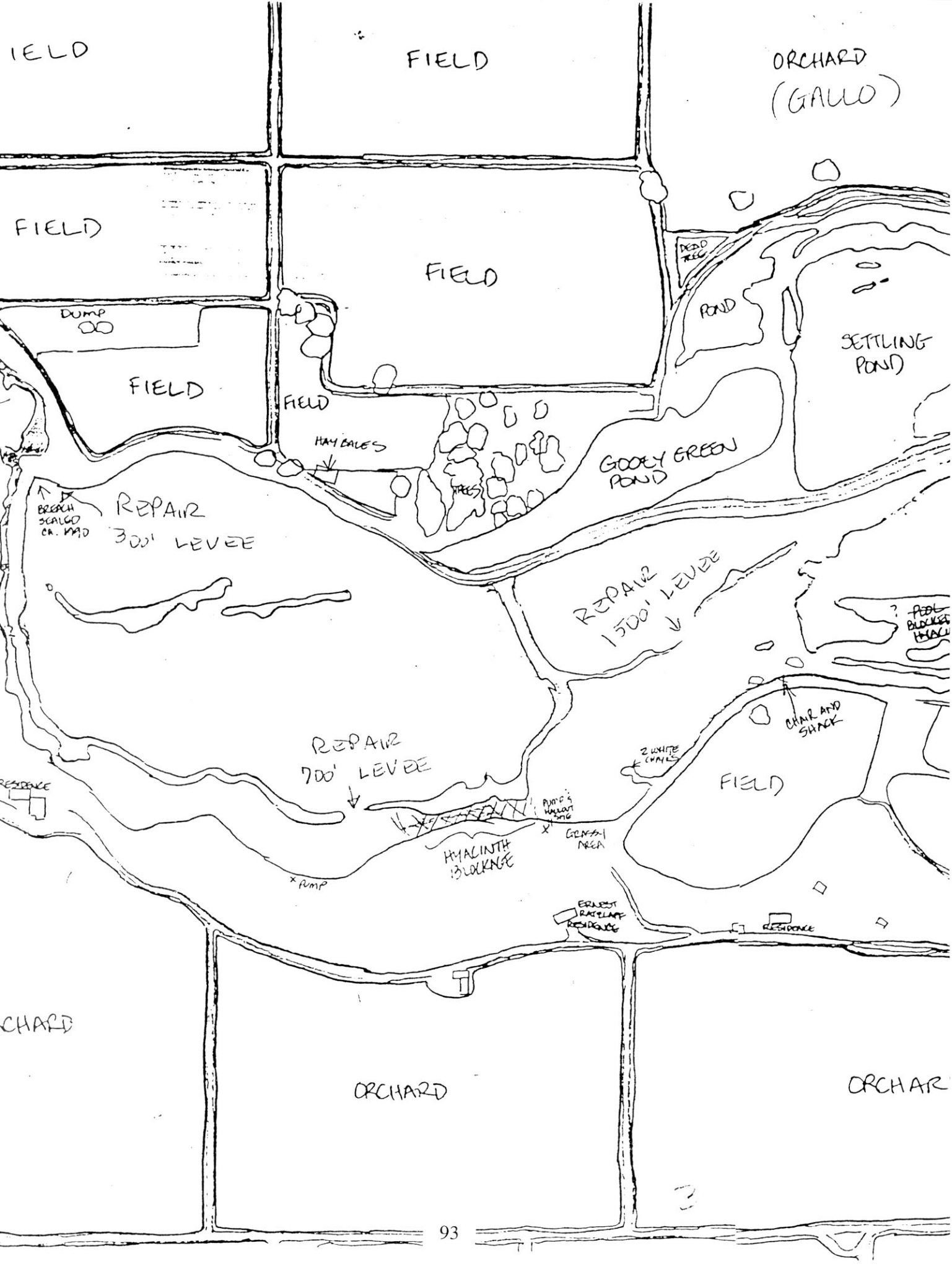
Merced River
Mile 40.1-40.5

Approximately 200 acres of abandoned gravel pits have breached, and the river now passes through them. These pits provide prime habitat for predators of out-migrating salmon smolts.

Restoration would involve isolating the pits from the channel. Repairs to the levees are relatively minor in comparison to the large amount of predator habitat that could be isolated. Three breaches totaling approximately 2,500 feet would need to be sealed.

The actual construction costs would be minor compared to the benefits. However, the cost of preliminary surveying will be significant due to the size of the site, the vegetation, and the depth of water.

The site has good access from both sides, and the landowner on the south side has expressed a willingness to have work go forward.


IELD
FIELD
ORCHARD
(GALLO)
FIELD
FIELD
DUMP
FIELD
FIELD
FIELD
HAY BALES
POND
SETTLING
POND
GOOEY GREEN
POND
REPAIR
300' LEVEE
REPAIR
1500' LEVEE
REPAIR
700' LEVEE
HYACINTH
BLOCKAGE
CHAIR AND
SHACK
2 WHITE
CHAIRS
FIELD
RESIDENCE
PUMP
RESIDENCE
CHARD
ORCHARD
ORCHAR